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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 1 March 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am transmitting herewith the text of a statement issued on 25 February 1994 by His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, in his capacity as President of the Sixth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, concerning the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Al-Khalil (Hebron) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as an official document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kéba Birane CISSE

ANNEX

Statement issued on 25 February 1994 by the President of the Sixth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

Over 50 innocent Palestinians have just been massacred in Hebron in the West Bank as they were saying early-morning prayers today, Friday, 25 February 1994 in Al-Khalil (Tomb of the Patriarchs).

In condemning in the most emphatic terms this indescribable act, I should like, in my capacity as President of the Sixth Islamic Conference, to say that all the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference share in the cruel ordeal just inflicted on the fraternal people of Palestine.

Coming at the very moment when in Paris and in Cairo Palestinian and Israeli negotiators were making real progress towards implementing Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, this odious crime is undoubtedly aimed at undermining the very positive gains already made in regard to the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.

But for those who know the maturity of spirit characterizing the leadership which the Palestinian people has freely chosen, that manoeuvre will fail as have those earlier manoeuvres by the enemies of peace in the Middle East. All peace-loving peoples should work towards that end.

For my part, in reiterating our support for the Palestinian people, I appeal to the Israeli leaders to do their utmost to prevent an escalation of violence, which can only damage the peace process.

I am also launching an appeal for rapid implementation of the Washington Agreement containing the Declaration of Principles on Palestinian autonomy, which remains a prerequisite for the cessation of tension and conflict.

(Signed) Abdou DIOUF
President of the Sixth Islamic Conference